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THE
MANIFOLD CAUSES

Of the INCREASE of the

P O O R

Distinctly set forth ;

TOGETHER WITH

A SET of PROPOSALS for removing and preventing some of
the PRINCIPAL EVILS, and for lessening OTHERS.

Wm. Birch.
Deem. Author.
27^o Junii 1760.



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THE following Sheets are owing to a Request, which Two honourable and eminent Personages in the Law were pleased to make me at the last Assizes at Gloucester. As I have no Intent of publishing this Piece (at least for some Years to come, and 'till it has received great Improvements) I would have sent Copies of it in Manuscript, first to the honourable Gentlemen, who set me upon the Work, and then to some other particular Persons, whom I am proud to call my Friends;—could I have got an Amanuensis proper for the Purpose. But finding that the transcribing Part would be almost endless, and at last perhaps dearer than the Press, I have used this commodious Machine once more, as the most exact and expeditious Transcriber. And the Margins are left as broad as in the former Tracts, in order to receive the Benefit of the Corrections and Amendments of the Judicious.

In perusing the following Papers some Readers will be apt to ask, “Doth the Author expect, That a Scheme so complicated, and so totally different from the present System, will ever be executed?” My Answer is, That my Expectations are very moderate on that Head.—I do believe, That some Plan or other,

of the Nature and Tendency of that submissively here proposed, ought to be tried: But whether any thing of the Kind ever will, is a Point, concerning which I have Doubts not a few. I must therefore leave the Fate of this, as well as that of many other of my well-meant Proposals to Length of Time, which now and then brings those Things to pass, that at first Sight appeared very unlikely. Several Instances of this Kind might be produced, were it necessary: And the Examples of some extraordinary Revolutions in the political Ways of thinking and acting of many People are too recent to be forgotten. Were the present Scheme ever to become a popular one, it would certainly be executed, though its Difficulties and Imperfections were Ten Times greater than they are: But without Popularity, in such a Constitution as ours, the best System that ever the Wit of Man could devise, would be despised and neglected, and perhaps, together with its Author, receive much worse Treatment.

In this Place, as the Opportunity serves, it may not be amiss to offer some Apology for delaying the Publication of the Elements of Commerce; a Treatise which hath been promised some time ago.—Indeed in the Sense which Apologies of this Sort are usually necessary, there is no need of any. For no Money hath been received for Subscriptions; nor any List of Subscribers attempted to be taken: But on the contrary, I have been at a very considerable Expence in printing off large Specimens of the Work, and distributing them about. Therefore the Reasons which I now submit with Deference to the Judgment of the Reader, are of another Kind.

In the first Place, the Arts of Peace are but little attended to, and less understood in Times of War.—To tell a Nation, flushed with Conquests, that Trade doth not depend upon Victories, and that it never can be acquired by Power, but will always find its Way to the cheaper, even tho' it should be the vanquished Country, is what they will not believe:—Or if they do believe it, they will nevertheless prefer the shining and rapid Acquisitions of the
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*Sword to the silent Progress of Industry, and to those slow Returns of Wealth, which arise only from a greater Goodness and Cheapness of Manufactures. To knock a Man on the Head is to take from him his All at once; and this is a short and compendious Way: But to excite that Man (who perhaps is called your Enemy) to greater Industry and Sobriety, to consider him as a Customer to you, and yourself as a Customer to him, so that the richer both of you are, the better it may be for each other; and, in short, to promote a mutual Trade to mutual Benefit:—This is a Kind of Reasoning which is as unintelligible at present, as the ~~Antipodes~~ *Antipodes* were in the Time of Galilæo. And it is well, if the Broacher of so strange a Doctrine doth escape the Censure of Heterodoxy in Commerce.*

Notion of it.

In the next Place, the strange Ferment now prevailing in a neighbouring Kingdom, and the fierce Aversion they express against being put upon as good, and indeed exactly the same Footing with those, whom they sometimes term their Oppressors, (i. e. the unaccountable Enmity they shew against having the heavy Oppressions they complain of removed) is another Reason for delaying the Publication of this Work.—To vote a Man an Enemy to Ireland is a short and concise Way of proving him to be one.—Whether he is such, or not, is another Question, which may leisurely be determined afterwards. But really such Sort of Confutations carry with them so strong a Conviction, that few People would chuse to dispute the Point with Antagonists of this Cast. While therefore the Patriots of Ireland chuse to bear the Burden of above ONE HUNDRED Taxes more than the English; which is the real Fact, as may be seen by comparing their Book of Rates with ours, and which Taxes are some of the most absurd, impoverishing, and oppressive that can ever be conceived:—I say, while they prefer the retaining of these Chains and Fetters upon themselves, rather than be freed from them, which an Union with England would instantly effect;—Nay, while they are most violently angry with any Person, who would but propose to set them free;—What hath any one to do, but

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to sit down quietly, and to let the present Infatuation spend itself, and have its Run?—At least this is the Course which, in my Apprehension, seems most eligible for me to take at present.

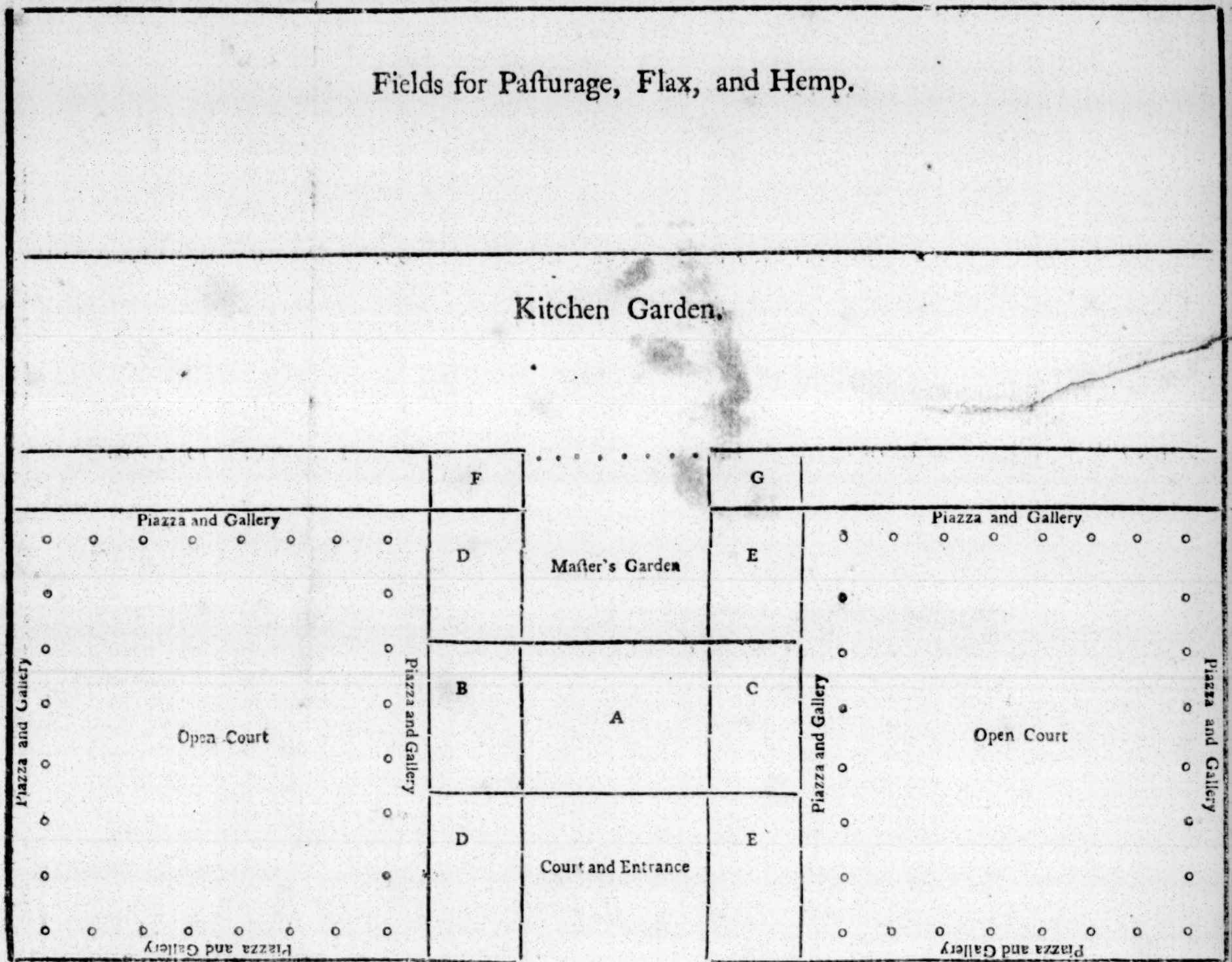
GLOCESTER,
May 26, 1760.

JOSIAH TUCKER.



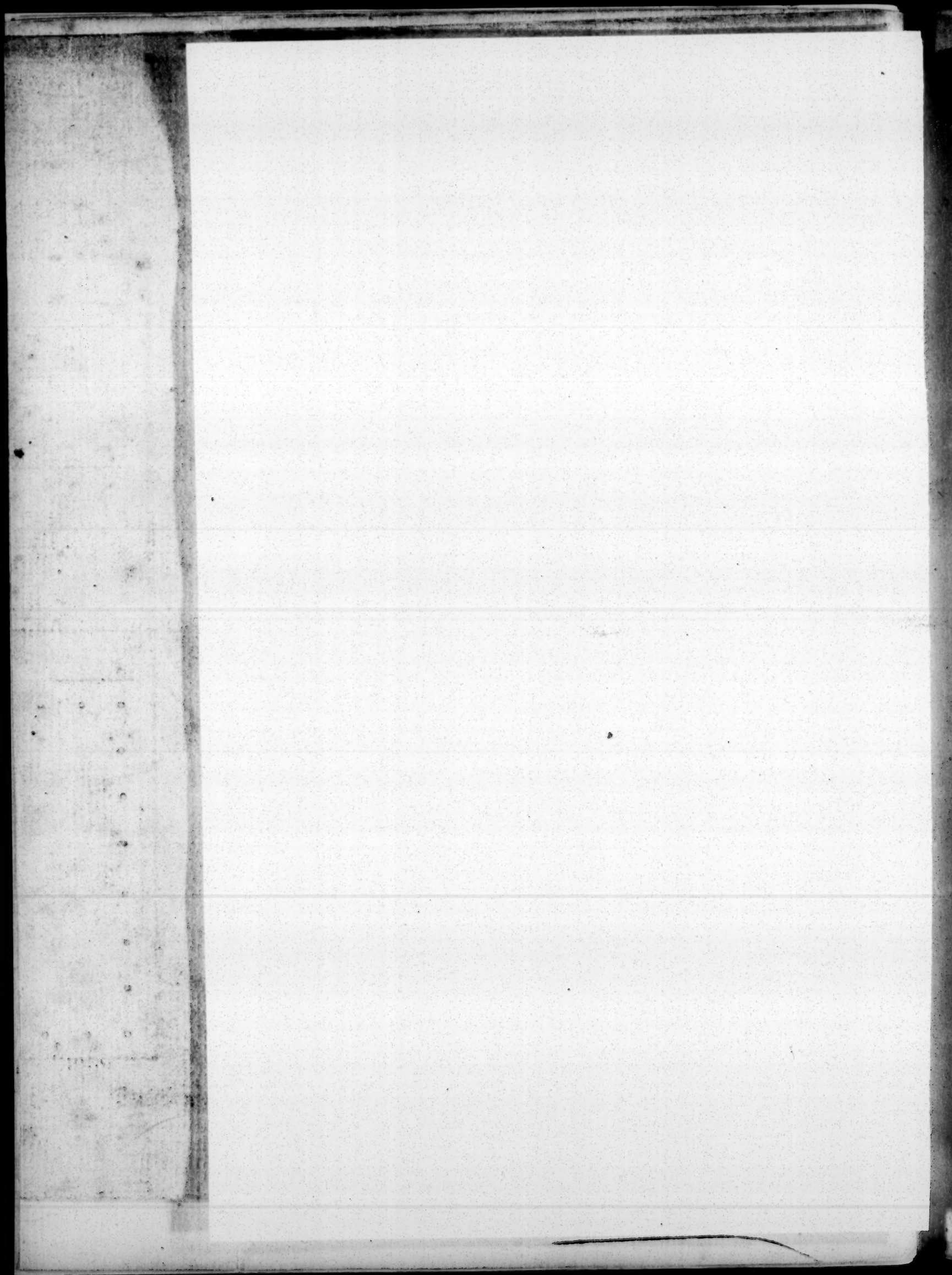


A PLAN of the POOR-HOUSE.



REFERENCES

- A. The Court Rooms, and the Apartments for the Master and Mistrefs.
- B. The Kitchen and Eating-Place for the Female Poor.
- C. The Kitchen and Eating-Place for the Male-Poor.
- D. D. The Ground-Wards and Galleries over them for lodging the Female Poor.
- E. E. The Ground-Wards and Galleries over them for lodging the Male Poor.
- F. The House of Correction for the Female Poor.
- G. The House of Correction for the Male Poor.
- N. B. *If there should be a Want of Room on the Female Side of the House, as probably there would be, especially as all the young Children, whether Male or Female, would be under the Care of Women, then some of the Galleries for working might have Beds set up in them.*



*The manifold Causes of the Increase of the
POOR distinctly set forth ; together with
a Set of Proposals for removing and pre-
venting some of the principal Evils, and
for lessening others.*

I. **T**HE Districts of Parishes are generally too small for the Purposes either of employing the Poor effectually ;—the Teaching the younger Poor their Christian Duty, and training them up to a Course of Industry ;—the good Government both of young and old ;—their cheap Maintenance ;—equal Taxations for their Support ;—or the Prevention of Law-Suits about their Settlements.

As to Employment, it is well known that the Numbers of Hands, the Variety of Talents and Capacities, the Instruments and Apparatus, the Stock and Materials required for carrying on any Business or Manufacture to good Effect, are much greater than most single Parishes can furnish.

IN regard to the right Education of the younger Poor both in Religion and Industry ;—the Omission of these important Articles results in a great Measure from the Wants specified before : And, in Consequence of them, no Persons are appointed to instruct the Parish-Poor in those Things, which are to make them either happy in the next Life, or useful Members of Society in the present. On the contrary, without Principles, and without

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Industry, or any Means of supporting themselves in an honest Manner, they are turned loose into the wide World, as they grow up, to become a Prey to the first Temptation that shall fall in their Way.

As to good Government, if the Poor are maintained in separate Families, which is a frequent Practice in the Country, they are under no Government at all; but are left, nay, perhaps, encouraged to stroll about the Country a-begging, and to break Hedges for Fuel, and to pilfer all they can. And even where they are collected together into one House, the Paucity of their Numbers scarcely makes them the Objects of wise Regulations: Nor can a Sufficiency of subordinate Officers be appointed to see those Regulations duly enforced. Therefore (as the Reverend Mr. *Burn* in his excellent Book well observes) the Poor are generally better governed in large, than in small Communities.

IN regard to Cheapness of Maintenance, it is a certain Fact, That Twenty Persons, living together, can be maintained cheaper than Ten, and Forty than Twenty, and Eighty than Forty: And, perhaps, the same might hold true in still greater Numbers: Not to mention, That the Profits or Savings of a large Community, employed in raising their own Garden-Stuff, making their own Cloths, grinding their own Corn by Hand-Mills, making their own Bread, and brewing their own Beer, or else continually working at some coarse Manufacture contribute to lessen the Expences of Maintenance.

WITH Respect to the Equality, or Inequality of Taxation, it frequently happens, as the Case stands at present, That in Two neighbouring Parishes, where One of them is situated near some commodious River, Mine, Colliery, or other Convenience for large Works and extensive Manufactures, that this Parish shall be burdened with a most numerous Poor, whilst the other, which equally enjoys the Benefits arising from high Rents of Lands, the quick



quick Sale of Provisions, the Nearness of the Market, and the Number of Consumers shall hardly pay any Thing at all.

Lastly, As to the Prevention of Law-Suits about Settlements and Removals, it is evident at first Sight, That the Incorporation of Ten Parishes is the taking away of Nine Motives or Temptations for going to Law; which is a desirable Circumstance, even where this Union or Incorporation can proceed no farther.—But surely, future Reflections will suggest many other Advantages that may attend such an Incorporation.

M O V E D by the Consideration of some of these Defects in our present Poor-Laws, the Legislature, by the 9th of *George I.* c. vii. empowered Two or more Parishes to join together, if they thought proper, for the Employment and Maintenance of their respective Poor. But as this Act offers no particular Inducements to join together, but only such as may arise from the general Nature of the Association; and as it is very difficult to agree about the Place *where*, and the Terms *how*, and especially about the *Quantum* of Money which each Parish is to pay; this Act hath produced very little Effect. But Mr. *Burn* observes that what Effect it did produce, was really good.

II. THE annual Election of Officers, such as that of Churchwardens and Overseers, for the Management and Government of the Poor, is another capital Defect in our present Poor-Laws: Inasmuch as it gives no Encouragement to promote a regular Progression in beneficial Industry, and is no Spur towards taking any Pains in the Education of the younger Poor. For every Person, who is elected only for Twelve Months, will naturally adopt that Scheme, which will give him the least Trouble during his Office, whatever it may give his Successor; or however it may affect the Publick: Nor will he give himself much Concern about any Plan that is offered to him, if it cannot be brought to bear within the Compass of his own Year; but must be attended with present Clamours against himself, whilst it reserves the Praise and Honour for his Successor.

III. THE Poor, by Means of these several Defects, being left to do whatever is right in their own Eyes, become the more desirous of Parish-Pay, as a Pension to support them in Laziness, and Indolence, and as a Refuge against that Want, which Vice and Extravagance have drove them to. Therefore they suffer themselves to become the poorer and more miserable, in order to move Compassion, and to be considered as the proper Candidates for this desirable State of Life, which frees them at once from all Labour, and all Care.

IV. THE Taxes themselves for the Support of the Poor are not founded upon a right, or judicious Principle: Nor doth the Legislature seem to have had any other End in View in laying them on, than just to raise as much Money as the Case required. Whereas the *First* View in laying on Taxes for the Support of the Poor should be, To remove or lessen all such Causes and Temptations, as may have contributed towards making People poor; so that the like Evils may be prevented for the future: And, after that is accomplished, then, *Secondly*, To raise a Sum of Money sufficient to maintain those who are already become poor, and to defray such Expences as cannot now be prevented, and therefore must be submitted to.

V. THE Poor thus daily encreasing both in Numbers and Expence, and the Burdens growing more intolerable every Day; —The most obvious, though not the justest Thought for redressing the Evils, was to drive the Paupers out of every Parish, and to prevent all Persons from settling in it, who might likely become chargeable. Therefore every Parish is, in Fact, in a State of War both offensively, and defensively with every other Parish throughout the Kingdom concerning Pauper-Settlements, and Removals; and by these Means contributes, though unwillingly, towards enhancing the former Expences to a prodigious Degree, instead of lessening them. Not to mention, that by hunting the industrious Poor out of the Parish, lest they should become chargeable, by the pulling down of Cottages, and by the Difficulties that are raised against the very Marriage
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of the Poor for the Continuation of the Species, the Country is depopulated, the Lands have not Hands to cultivate them, nor the Manufactories for carrying them on; the Price of all Kind of Labour is advancing, whilst the Consumption of the coarser Provisions, and the offal Produce of Farms and Dairies must proportionably decrease.

BUT, besides these Evils arising from a Defect in the Poor-Laws themselves, there are others, which result from a like Defect in the present System of our Civil Constitution.

THE Affair of Electioneering, for Instance, and the Qualifications for voting * (so very different from their original Institution) have a fatal Tendency towards encreasing the Numbers of the Poor; both as they introduce Idleness, Extravagance, and Dissoluteness in the lowest Class of People; and also as they destroy, or weaken that Power, which the Laws of every Country ought to have for correcting or punishing such Evils.

MOREOVER all Restraints upon the right Exertion of Genius, and Talents; such as that famous restraining Law of the Fifth of Queen *Elizabeth*: Also the Denials of Certificates to the industrious Poor, and the consequential Confinement of them to one Spot, where they cannot find that Sort

* *Note*, The general Qualification for voting as Freeholders, according to the 8th of *Henry VI. c. vii.* was 40*s.* by the Year, at least, above all Charges (these are the very Words of the Act) which 40*s.* weighed as much at that Juncture, as 3*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* do of present Money, viz. Seven-Ounces and Ten-Penny Weights: See *Essay on Money and Coins*, Part ii. p. 2. also Mr. *Folke's Table of English Coins*. So that even according to the Intention of that Act of Parliament, under which all Persons now vote, the Qualification ought to be raised from 40*s.* to nearly 4*l.* by the Year, above all Charges: And if you take other Articles into the Account, and compare the Differences in the Ways of Living then and now, you ought to raise it again from 4*l.* up to 20*l.* per Year.

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of Employment, or the Constancy of Employment which their natural Capacities, and Activity would require, do necessarily create an habitual Indolence, and bring on a desponding Poverty.

ADD to this, That the Numbers of the Poor are vastly encreased by the Permission granted to the common People, or, what is the same Thing, by the Liberty which they take with Impunity, and without Controul, of participating in the Sports of Hunting, Racing, Cock-fighting, Prize-fighting, Cudgel-playing, &c. &c. Also of frequenting *Whitsun-Ales*, Holiday-Fairs, Wakes, &c.

S E C T. II.

What Sort of Remedies ought to be proposed towards checking, preventing, or lessening, these numerous Evils.

I. **T**HE Remedies ought to go to the Root of the Evils here complained of; but they should not proceed with too much Violence, and Precipitance: Nor should their whole Tendency appear at once; --- except to the judicious few. For the Mass of Mankind are every-where more attached to old Customs than to the Truth and Reason, or the Usefulness of Things. And therefore their deep-rooted Prejudices must be undermined by very gentle Degrees, instead of being battered down by Force and Fury, especially in such a Constitution as ours.

II. THE Remedies to be proposed, ought to be of the preventive Kind as much as possible. To cure a Disorder is something; but to cure, and at the same Time to prevent a Return,

Return, is much better. Therefore to prevent future Drunkenness, Idleness, and Extravagance in the rising Generation, should be a principal Object in every Proposal to be made.

III. THE Regulations, whatever they are, should be so contrived, as, for the most Part, to execute themselves. For, if they do not do so, they will be very lamely and imperfectly executed, if at all.

IV. THEY should be likewise of such a Nature as to be as practicable in one Country, and in one Part of the Kingdom, as in another. For a general Poor-Law, which is to reverse the greatest Part of the present System, and establish a new one, ought to proceed on such common Principles as would suit every Part alike.

V. THE new Plan, whatever it is to be, should not be too large, any more than too confined. A Parish-District, for Instance, and a Parish Work-House have been proved to be generally too confined. But, on the other Hand, is not a County-District by much too large and unweildy? And are not the Governments of such Provinces, and the Management of their publick Funds the more likely to become Jobs, by being Objects not below the Attention of the Great?---The Great, I say, who are not easily to be called to an Account, or controuled, when they shall have misbehaved in their Stewardships.---Besides, how preposterous would it be to send Twenty, Thirty, or Forty Miles off, to obtain Leave of a Governor, or Deputy-Governor to relieve the casual Poor in Cases of Emergency, to apprehend and examine Vagabonds, or to do any other Act, which required to be done with Dispatch and Expedition?

VI. THE Governments of these new-intended Districts (being greater than Parishes, but less than Counties) should make up in Honour and Reputation to the Gentlemen elected into these Offices, what they want in Profit. Therefore some
Insignia

Insignia, or Badges of Honour, and some State and Parade should be devised suitable to the Occasion. Moreover an Emulation should be raised between the Governors of the respective Districts,---Which of them should excel in their Methods of managing, educating, and employing the Poor, and at the least Expence.

THESE are the general Ends which every Person ought to propose to himself, when he attempts a Cure, or even a Palliative of such firm-rooted and complicated Evils as now subsist. And, though it is impossible to keep up to the Mark here in View, yet the nearer the Advance is made towards Perfection, or, if that is too strong a Word, the farther the Removes are from gross Imperfections, the less are the Evils, and the greater the Good done. And every reasonable and candid Man, who knows the Difficulties attending the Subject on every Side, will make great Allowance on such an Occasion; and never will expect to see any Plan so well contrived or digested, but that considerable Faults and Imperfections might be found in it.---The Question therefore ought to be on such Occasions,---not, Whether the new System is faultless? but, Whether it contains fewer Faults, and whether it remedies more Evils than the old one?

S E C T. III.

General PROPOSALS.

I. **T**HAT instead of single Parishes for the Maintenance of the Poor, several should be incorporated together for this Purpose, though to be distinct and separate in all other Respects as much as before.

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II. THAT this Incorporation be effected in the following Manner:—Let the Vestries of those Parishes which are within any Market-Town or City, and also of all others, whose Parish-Churches are within the Distance of Six measured Miles of such Market-Town or City, have the Liberty of incorporating together, and of making that Town or City the Centre of their Incorporation. And after any Three of such Parishes have incorporated together by mutual Consent, let each of the others, as they become willing to associate or incorporate, have the Liberty of so doing, without being liable to be rejected by those who have already incorporated. All Incorporations when once formed, and notified to the Justices of the Peace for the County at their Quarter-Sessions or Adjournment, and there recorded, are to be held valid, and not to be dissolved.

IF any Parish-Church should be equally near to Two, Three, or Four Cities or Towns, the Centres of their respective Incorporations, such a Parish may incorporate with which it pleases: ---If it be nearer to one Centre, and yet be within Six Miles of the other, it must nevertheless incorporate (if it doth at all) with the nearest;---unless the Justices at their Quarter-Sessions or Adjournments should, at the Petition of the Parishioners, see Reason to dispense with this Rule. If there should be no Centre within the Distance of Six measured Miles, then such a Parish must incorporate with that which happens to be nearest, unless the Parishioners shall petition the Justices, and obtain their Consent to be incorporated elsewhere. But note, no Incorporations whatever should exceed the Bounds of their respective Counties:---And wherever it can be done, the incorporating Parishes ought to confine themselves to the Divisions already known and established, viz. *Hundreds*.

III. To induce these Incorporations to be formed, all the burthensome Poor in each of the Parishes that shall incorporate, shall be maintained and supported by the Taxes that shall be hereafter mentioned. But those Parishes, which will not incorporate, shall maintain their own Poor, according to the
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present Method. This Difference between the associating, and non-associating Parishes will gradually bring great Numbers to associate. And it is not proposed, or wished, That they should be compelled to associate too suddenly.—It will be Time enough to enact compulsory Laws to oblige the obstinate and self-willed, after a Trial of Eight or Ten Years hath been made upon the Scheme: And if by that Time the Scheme, upon the Whole, hath proved itself a good one, there will be little Need of any Compulsion at all.

IV. THAT all Persons *residing*, for Three Months in the Year or upwards, within these associated Districts, possessed of the yearly Value of 50*l.* for Life, above all Charges, or of 1000*l.* in Money or Effects, shall be deemed the hereditary, legal, and perpetual Guardians of the Poor within such Districts; and together with them the Mayor and Aldermen, or other chief Officers of each Town within the District; and also the Minister and Church-Wardens and Chapel-Wardens, of each Parish or Chapel, for the Time being.

N. B. *If any Person will commence a Subscriber to this Charity, of Three Guineas, or more per Year, or Thirty Guineas for Life, he likewise shall be deemed a Guardian, though not qualified in other Respects.*

V. THAT these Guardians shall meet sometime in the Months of *January*, or *February* in every Year to elect a President, and Four Vice-Presidents out of their own Body, which President and Vice-Presidents shall be obliged to serve in their respective Offices for one whole Year, dating from the 25th of *March* next ensuing: And if the Society shall judge it expedient for the Good of the Charity, that all, or either of these Gentlemen should be continued longer in Office, then at the next Time of Election they may chuse One, or more of them for another Year, and so on for a Third. The Penalty in Cases of Refusal, to be as follows, The Person elected for President

President to forfeit the first Year, for not serving 20*l.*—the second Year 10*l.*—and the third Year 5*l.* And each of the Vice-Presidents to forfeit the first Year, for not serving 10*l.*—the second Year 5*l.*—and the third Year 2*l.* 10*s.* But *note*, That after the Three Years in which they are eligible are expired, or after any one of the Years is expired without a Re-election, they shall not be liable to be re-chosen again for Four Years to come.

VI. THAT as soon as may be, after the Election of a President and Four Vice-Presidents, an yearly Catalogue shall likewise be made of all the Guardians of the District: And this Catalogue shall be distinguished into Columns, *viz.* Such as are Guardians by Right of 50*l.* a Year for Life,---such as are so by Virtue of a Stock or Capital in Money or Goods of 1000*l.*---such also as are Guardians by Virtue of their Office:---And such as are so by Virtue of their voluntary Subscriptions or Contributions:---Therefore if any Person shall think himself aggrieved by being inserted in this List, he may appeal to the General Quarter-Sessions of the Peace, specifying, either that he is not legally resident, or is not possessed of 50*l.* a Year for Life, or is not worth 1000*l.* or is in no Office which can constitute him a Guardian: And the Determination of the Quarter-Sessions shall be final. Moreover, as soon as the Elections of Mayors, or Church-Wardens, or other annual Officers, or the Appointment of Ministers are over, their Names shall likewise be inserted in this Catalogue of Guardians.

VII. THAT this President and these Four Vice-Presidents, without taking any Oath, or receiving the Holy Sacrament as a Qualification, shall be, *as far as the Poor are concerned, and the assessing and levying all Rates for their Support*, as much Justices of the Peace within their District, as if they had taken out a Dedimus, and gone through all the Forms of Law: And every Guardian shall be vested with the full Power of a Constable for the same Purposes.

VIII. THAT regular Court-Days shall be held at the Poor-House, or General Hospital for the District, once in every Month, and proper Notice given to all the Members to attend. And after the Names of all the Members are called over, and one Hour elapsed, all the Absentees shall be fined at the Pleasure of the Majority of those that are present:--- Provided that in no Case whatever (Sickness, Journeys, Arrests, or extraordinary Accidents excepted) the Fine shall be less than One Shilling, and that it never shall exceed Five Shillings:--- Which Money shall be applied towards defraying the Charges of those that attend, in the same Manner as Justices of the Peace are paid for their Attendance on the Quarter-Sessions. That the President, or in his Absence one of the Vice-Presidents, together with one-tenth Part of the Number of the Guardians shall constitute a Court: But if a sufficient Number shall not appear, the Business is to be postponed, after fining the Absentees, 'till the next Court-Day.

N. B. *The President, or either of the Vice-Presidents, or any Four of the Guardians shall have the Power of summoning an extraordinary Court, whenever the Exigency of Affairs shall require. And in all Cases of Equality of Voices, the President, or in his Absence the Vice-President shall have the Casting-Vote.*

IX. THAT the Church-Wardens or Chapel-Wardens of the associating Parishes shall take their Turns to visit the Poor weekly, and shall cause to be written down the Remarks they shall make, in a Book to be kept for that Purpose, which shall be read the succeeding Court-Day:— Or if they do not visit themselves, they shall cause some other Guardian to visit in their Stead under a Penalty of 5s. per Week, which Sum shall go to the general Fund of the Charity.

X. THAT

X. THAT at these Courts they shall have the Power of making what Bye-Laws, and Regulations, they shall judge necessary for the general good Government, Maintenance, and Employment of the Poor, and Collection of their Revenues; provided that such Bye-Laws are consistent and co-operative with this Law, and the other Laws of the Land.

XI. THAT the Court Guardian of each of these Districts shall have a publick Seal, and shall sue, and be sued in their own Name.

XII. THAT whenever the President shall attend at any Court of the Guardians, or at the Quarter-Sessions of the Peace, or at the County-Assizes, he shall be obliged, under a Penalty of 5*l.* to be forfeited to the Use of the Poor, to wear an honorary Badge of Distinction: Which shall be, unless a better can be devised, the publick Seal of the Society pendant to a Ribbon about his Neck, with these Letters engraven round it, THE PRESIDENT OF THE COURT GUARDIAN OF——, specifying the Name of the Town or City, which is the Centre of the Incorporation. And not only the President, but also the Vice-presidents shall be denominated ESQUIRES in all publick Writings and Acts of the Court, if they chuse it, and shall have White-Rods or Staves put up at their Pews or Seats, during their Office (like those of Church-Wardens) in their respective Parish Churches.

S E C T. IV.

The intended Taxes, and the various Inducements for bringing several Parishes to associate or incorporate together.

I. **A**LL such Stock in Trade, Personals, or Capitals, as can be equitably deemed to be comprehended within the incorporated District, if they belong to Batchelors or childless Widowers, shall be rated to the Poor of the District Fourpence in the Pound yearly.

II. ALL the Lands and Tenements, (but not Dwelling-Houses) the Tithes, Under-Woods, Mines, Ferries, Fisheries, &c. of which Batchelors or childless Widowers are the Possessors, Proprietors, or Landlords, shall be rated Two-pence in the Pound at Rack-Rent yearly:—To be paid by the Owners, or Landlords only.

III. ALL the Dwelling-Houses, of which Batchelors or childless Widowers are the Landlords, &c. shall be yearly assessed Two-pence *per* House, and Two-pence *per* Window (without excepting the smallest, or the meanest) to be paid by the Owners, or Landlords only.

IV. THE Dwelling-Houses, which Batchelors or childless Widowers do occupy or inhabit, whether such Houses be their own, or be rented of others, shall be assessed yearly Two-pence *per* House, and Two-pence *per* Window (without excepting the smallest, or the meanest, unless the Inhabitants are Paupers, and subsist by Charity) to be paid by the Occupiers or Inhabitants only.

N. B. *This last Tax doth not excuse the former.*

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V. ALL Coffee-Houses, Taverns, Inns, and Ale-Houses, shall be taxed yearly Two-pence *per* House, and Two-pence *per* Window to be paid by the Inhabitants only. And if these Houses should belong to, or be inhabited by Batchelors or childless Widowers, they are to pay in the Two former Respects as well as in this.

VI. OVER and above all other Taxes, if the Inhabitant or Keeper of any Coffee-House, Tavern, Inn, or Ale-House, should have, or keep any Billiard Tables, Shuffle-Boards, Back-Gammon Tables, or any Apparatus whatever for playing at any Sort of Game within Doors;—then such Keeper or Inhabitant shall pay yearly Two-pence *per* House, and Two-pence *per* Window: And if there are Apparatuses for playing at Two Sorts of Games, then the Inhabitant or Keeper shall pay Four-pence *per* House, and Four-pence *per* Window:---And so encreasing Two-pence for every Apparatus, but not diminishing any other Tax. Moreover, if the Inhabitant or Occupier of any *private* House should have, or keep any such Apparatus for deriving a Gain or Profit from the Company using such Apparatus, then this House shall be deemed a *publick* One, within the Meaning and Intention of this Law, and be subject to all the Taxes appropriated to the Support of the Poor.

WHERE *note*, That these Payments are not intended to limit or restrain the Power of the Justices, or other Officers of the Peace in denying Licences, in taking them away, in searching Houses, in punishing Offences, or preventing the Multiplication of Temptations:--- But on the contrary, to aid and assist the good Intentions of the Legislature, by laying such additional Checks and Discouragements on Idleness, Dissipation, and Dissoluteness of Morals, as shall operate more effectually towards the Good of the Community than mere penal Laws, Informations, and Prosecutions, from long Experience, are known to do. And what is said in relation to this particular Head, is applicable to all others of a like Nature.

VII. THE Keepers or Furnishers of Accommodations for Long Rooms, Theatres, or any Rooms (though only occasionally made Use of) for the Entertainments of Musick, or Dancing, for publick Card-playing, and Assemblies, for acting of Plays, exhibiting of Puppet-Shews, Raree-Shews, or the Sights of wild Beasts, or for any other Spectacle of the like Kind, any Pastime, Recreation, or Diversion for Profit or Gain either directly, or indirectly, shall not have any Tax laid upon the Windows of such Rooms, or Theatres, but shall be assessed Four-pence the Square-Yard *per* Year:---In which Measurement all Galleries, Orchestras, and Areas, and all Spaces for the Spectators, Actors, or Performers are to be taken into the Account.

UNDER this Head may be included all Musick-Gardens, and Bowling-Greens, or any other uncovered Places, if made Use of for publick Entertainments, Shews, Sights, Diversions, or Recreations;---Only it seems proper, that on Account of their Size and Dimensions, the Tax upon them should be moderated from Four-pence, to One Penny the Square-Yard *per* Year.

BUT as to Cock-Pits, the Stages for Bruisers, Cudgel-Players, or Fencers, the Rings for Bull, or Bear-Baiting, or any Places accommodated for Diversions of the like savage Nature, the Tax to be laid upon them cannot well be too high, and more especially as the Areas for the Spectators of some of these cruel and inhuman Sports cannot be marked out, or taxed: Therefore a Tax of Two Shillings the Square-Yard *per* Year would hardly be high enough.

VIII. A TAX of One Shilling *per* Dog *per* Year ought to be levied upon the Keepers of all Dogs within the incorporated District.

IX. A VOTING-ROLL should be kept by the Court Guardian of each District: In which all Persons residing within the District, who are qualified to vote for a Member of Parliament,
or

or for any other Officer Civil or Ecclesiastical, who is to be chosen by a Majority of Votes, should enter their Names; and pay Two Shillings Half-yearly, or Four Shillings yearly, or Eight Shillings for Two Years to the Use of the Poor of that District: And in Case any such Voter at the Time of Election cannot make it appear by his Acquittances from the Court Guardian, or from their Books, That he hath paid the said Tax for at least Two Years preceding, and that he is not now Half a Year in Arrears, then his Vote should be stopped, and declared void for that Turn.

N. B. Where the Voter is but a new Comer into a District, he must produce as many Certificates from the District or Districts, where he last resided, as together with the Time he has lived in the present District, will make up the Two Years immediately preceding.

AND as to the Cases of Minors, or sea-faring People, or Persons, who have but lately acquired Freeholds, or Freedoms, suffice it in these Instances, That such Persons shall pay in that District which they prefer to others, the Sum of Eight Shillings, in the same Manner as if they had discharged an Arrears of Two Years, and shall receive Acquittances from the Court Guardian, specifying the particular Nature of the Case.—Then they shall be entitled to vote, but not otherwise.

X. ALL Turnpikes within the District shall be doubly taxed on each Sunday throughout the Year; also on every Good-Friday, and Christmas-Day; likewise on Easter, and Whitsun Mondays: One Moiety whereof to go to the Use of the Turnpike, as usual, and the other to the Incorporation of the Poor of the District.

XI. RACERS of all Kinds shall pay Twenty Shillings *per* Racer *per* Day;—*viz.* If the Racer is of the human Species, he shall pay it himself, or be sent to the House of Correction; but, if the Racer is of the Brute Tribe, the Owner or Proprietor shall pay it under the like Penalty.

XII. ALL Booths, Stands, or Conveniences for selling Liquors, Cakes, Fruit, or other Refreshments during any Spectacle, Entertainment, Pastime, Recreation, or Diversion of what Kind or Name soever, shall pay Five Shillings *per* Day.

XIII. ALL Forfeitures and Penalties, according to divers Acts of Parliament, for the Benefit of the Poor of the Parish where the Fact is committed, shall be vested in this Court Guardian. And they shall likewise have the Power within their District, of examining single Women gotten with Child, of demanding Security of the reputed Father, and of punishing the Father and Mother, in the same Manner, as such Powers can now be legally executed by the Justices of the Peace, and Parish Officers. And they may have the Option of compounding with the reputed Father for the Offence, and take upon themselves the Maintenance of the Child, provided that this Composition shall never be less than 10/.

XIV. ALL Estates, Houses, and Benefactions heretofore given for the Relief of the Parish-Poor within any of the incorporating Parishes, shall be vested from henceforward in the Court Guardian of the Incorporation. Moreover, they shall be empowered to receive all subsequent Benefactions, Gifts, and Legacies; provided that such Donations do consist not in Land, but in Money to be laid out upon the Buildings, Improvements, Apparatus, or Stock of Materials;—and not for the Maintenance or Support of the Poor:—It being necessary, That there should be a constant Demand for levying all the preceding Taxes, in order that there may be a constant Check upon Idleness, Extravagance, Debauchery, and bad Morals. For Taxes of this Tendency are so far from impoverishing a Country, that they infallibly make it richer.

XV. ONE Twentieth Part of all Commons within the incorporated Parishes shall be vested in the Court Guardian likewise: Which they are to inclose, and rent out to the best Advantage

Advantage for the Use of the Poor, at a Lease of Twenty-one Years, if they please, but not longer. But,

N. B. *Before they rent out any, they must reserve a sufficient Quantity (Twenty-one Acres if possible) for the Use of the General Poor-House, and in order to raise Flax and Hemp for their Employment; besides another Quantity of Land to be given as a Compensation in Lieu of Tithes. And if Twenty-one Acres cannot be found lying contiguous together, or commodiously situated, then the Guardians may exchange Land for Land with any other Proprietors, 'till they are accommodated to their Minds.*

XVI. A COURT of Conscience shall be established in each District for any Sum not exceeding 5*l*. And the Processes in this Court shall be wrote on a double Six-penny Stamp; one Moiety whereof shall go to the King, and the other to the Poor of the District.

XVII. IF these several Taxes and Advantages should not prove sufficient for the Support of the Poor within the associating Parishes, then, and not 'till then, all Lands, and real Estates (but not Dwelling-Houses) remaining untaxed, shall now be taxed One Penny in the Pound at Rack-Rent *per* Year, to be paid by the Owners;—In like Manner all Stock or Personals at One Penny *per* Pound in Value. Moreover, all Dwelling-Houses, if inhabited, shall be taxed One Penny *per* House, and One Penny *per* Window, to be paid by the Occupiers. In which Case, as it is a charitable Tax, to which the lower Class ought to contribute their Mite, every House and Window, small as well as great, shall be included:—No Persons being to be exempt, but those only who subsist by Alms and Charity.

AND if there should still be a Deficiency for the Support of the Poor, then the former Penny shall be augmented to One Penny Half-Penny,—always taking Care at the same Time to make a proportionable Advance, *viz.* One Half more, in

each of the Eight first Set of preceding Taxes: And so on, encreasing the poor Tax from Time to Time, according to the particular Exigency and Necessity of Affairs.

HAVING thus endeavoured to make an ample Provision for the Support, and Employment of the Poor by such Ways and Means, as if duly put in Practice, must necessarily make the Generality of the People rich; perhaps it may not be improper, before this Head is concluded, to point out the Methods for the more easy, and sure Collection of these several Rates or Taxes.

THE Taxes proposed are of Two Sorts, *annual*,—and *casual*: The annual are the Nine following, Taxes upon the Stock,—the Lands and Tenements,---and the Dwelling-Houses of Batchelors,---Taxes upon Houses inhabited by Batchelors---upon Publick Houses,---upon the smaller Apparatus for Play or Gaming,---Upon the greater *ditto*, and upon the Accommodations for Spectators,---upon Dogs---and, *lastly*, upon such Reals and Personals as were left untaxed before. Now, the same Person may collect all these Half-yearly; the Year being always to begin the 25th of *March*. And this Person may likewise serve in the Capacity of Steward or Clerk of the Court, and Governor of the Household; his Wife being likewise the Matron. It is moreover proper to observe, That in order to render these Assessments both legal, and impartial, Notice should be given in each Parish Church belonging to the District, That the Court Guardian will make an Assessment for the Poor on such a Day (which ought to be at least Four Months before the Collection) where all concerned may have Liberty to attend, and to know how much is laid upon them:—And that the Guardians will also allot the Two succeeding Court-Days, to be Days of Appeal for the Redresses of Grievances, if any should appear. After this Form is over, the Rate should be signed either by the President (as a Justice of the Quorum for this particular Case) and One of the Vice-Presidents,—or else by Three Vice-Presidents without him; and

and then be delivered to the Person or Persons appointed to collect; who may be allowed Six-pence in the Pound for so doing.

IF any Person should still think, That he had not Justice done him in his Application to the Court Guardian, to ease his Assessment, he may then carry his Appeal farther, *viz.* to the Quarter-Sessions, according to the present Methods and Forms of Laws.

As to the *casual* Income; ---- It is comprehended in Eight Branches, *viz.* A Tax on Electioneering, --- on Turnpikes for certain Days, --- on Racing, --- or Tippling-Booths, &c. --- on Stamps for the Court of *Conscience*, --- legal Penalties and Forfeitures, --- Benefactions for the Use of the Poor, --- and the Twentieth Part of all Common within the District. Now Two of these, *viz.* That on Racing, and that on Tippling-Booths will, for the most part (if collected at all) be collected together; and need not interfere with the Collection of the annual Taxes in Point of Time; because this latter may be made a Day or Two sooner, or postponed a Day or Two later, according as Circumstances shall vary. And in regard to the others, some of them, such as that on Electioneering, --- the *Sunday* Turnpikes, --- and the Moiety of the Stamps, will give no Trouble at all in Collecting; because the Money will be brought home; and as to the Three remaining, the Trouble will not be worth the mentioning.

So that upon the Whole, the Difficulties are not great in any Respect: But the Advantages will be considerable, whether these Taxes produce much, or little in Point of Income. If they should produce much, then the Burden is laid, where it ought to be, on the vain, the idle, the extravagant, and the vicious; --- or, at least, on those, whose Examples had a bad Tendency: And at the same Time the Frugal and Industrious, the Exemplary, and the Promoters of the Good of Society would be proportionably eased, and encouraged. On the other Hand, if these Taxes should produce but little, then the good Effects
of

of them would become more apparent in the little Expences which the Poor would occasion;--- the Temptations themselves being lessened, and the Evils prevented, which used to create Poverty, and all its Train of Miseries.

S E C T. V.

The general Oeconomy of the House, and the particular Regulations of the Work-Shops, and Manufactures.

I. **A**BOUT Twenty-one Acres of the best Common Land the District can afford, should be allotted for the Site of the House,—the Kitchen Garden,---the Fields for Pasturage, and for raising Hemp and Flax. The House and Garden might require about Three Acres; because Potatoes, as well as other Garden-Stuff should be raised in such a Place: The remaining Eighteen Acres might be so separated by Hurdles, as to have Three Acres every Year under Hemp and Flax, and Fifteen Acres partly lying fallow, and partly affording Pasturage for a Couple of Cart-Horses, and Two or Three Cows. By these Means the Plat for Hemp, and Flax would be shifted every Year, and in the Rotation of the Sixth Year, the same Plat would be sown over again with Hemp, and Flax, having had sufficient Time to recover itself by the Interval of Five clear Years, besides the Assistance it would receive from dunging, and manuring.

N. B. By thus cultivating, and manuring this large Kitchen Garden, these Fields for Pasturage, and Grounds for Flax and Hemp the Boys will be bred up early to a Species of Husbandry

bandry the fittest for them to learn ; the Girls also will be taught the Rudiments of Farming and Dairy : And the young, and the old of both Sexes will find constant Employment either in the Field and Garden, or the Manufactory.

II. THE Form of the House should resemble an H, having the Room for holding the Court, and the Apartments for the Master and Mistress in the Middle ; and the Lodging Wards and Galleries for the Male Poor on one Side, and those for the Females on the other. Beyond these Wards and Galleries should extend large Square Courts with high Walls, having Sheds or Galleries for Work-Shops built against the Walls, and supported by Pillars : So that all these Sheds or Work-Shops would have Piazzas under them ; which would serve particularly well for spinning of Twine, and small Cordage ; and if not necessary for these Purposes, they might be closed up, and converted into Rooms for weaving Linen.

III. The House being made so very spacious and commodious, and capable of providing for almost any Number of Lodgers at a short Warning, should receive, not only all the Paupers within the District, but also all common Beggars, Persons travelling with Passes, Vagrants and Vagabonds ;---whose Treatment, according to their respective Deserts, shall be set forth hereafter. Nor should any Pay, Relief, or Assistance be granted to Persons lodging out of the House in any Case whatever, but in the Four following : 1st. Where there is either an infectious Disorder in the House, or in the Person who petitions the Charity : 2^{dly}, Where the Petitioner is burdened with a numerous Family, and only wants a temporary Assistance towards their Support while they are young : 3^{dly}, Where a Fire, or such like sudden Calamity hath happened to a Person or Family, who supported themselves before, and would again, after they had got the better of their present Distress : And, 4^{thly}, Where Sicknefs, or some Casualty would endanger their Removal into the Poor-House. In every other supposeable Case the Poor should be maintained,
and

and lodged within the House, nor suffered once to stir abroad without the Leave of the Master or the Mistress.

IV. IN regard to Removals, and Parish-Settlements, this Court Guardian is not to go to Law about any such Matter [If any one of the associating Parishes hath a Mind to try that Experiment at their own proper Charges; be that their private Concern:] But the Court Guardian is to maintain all Paupers of what Species soever that are found within the District,---to punish the bad,---and reward the deserving,---and to grant Dismissions to all such as shall apply for Leave to depart the House, under the Regulations to be hereafter mentioned.

V. All Persons travelling with Passes, as shall find themselves destitute of Money, also all Strangers whatever in the like Circumstances must not beg, when they come within the Bounds of the District; [for if they beg, they shall be deemed Vagrants, and treated as such] but they are to apply for Relief to the general Poor-House, where they shall be taken in, and well accommodated with Victuals and Lodging for One Night, without any Questions asked them. But they shall not be suffered to depart the next Day, 'till they have been examined by the President, or One of the Vice-Presidents, or One of the weekly Guardians, and have assigned the Causes which brought them to this Distress. And if their Plea shall be judged a reasonable one, they shall be dismissed with Two Pounds of Bread and Half a Pound of Cheese, with a Caution added, that they must leave the District in Twelve Hours' Time; otherwise shall be taken up, and treated as Vagrants: And all this should be expressed in a printed Certificate for that Purpose; which they may carry to the Poor-House of the next District on the Road they are to travel.

MOREOVER, if there are any Persons, who came to seek for Work or Service, the Master or Mistress of the House shall give them the best Directions in their Power: For,

N. B.

N. B. Every Poor-House ought to be an House of Call for Work or Service. And further,---If such poor Persons, be they Strangers or Natives, as are willing to work, but cannot obtain Employment, should be obliged thro' Necessity to apply again for Sustenance, they shall be received in again, and treated on the same Footing, as the other Paupers, and not be dismissed, but under the Regulations to be set forth hereafter.

BUT if the Examiner should have Reason to suspect their Story, and to believe them to be Cheats and Impostors, he ought to detain them longer [putting them to hard Labour] in the Poor-House in order to enquire farther into the Truths of the Facts they alledge, and to publish Advertisements in the News-Papers concerning them. And if upon due Enquiry they are found to be Cheats and Impostors, then they are to be ranked in the Class next to be mentioned, and to be treated accordingly, viz.

VI. ALL Beggars, Rogues, and Vagrants found within the District, shall be taken up by the Officers of the Poor-House, (for apprehending each of whom they shall have a Premium of 10s. upon Conviction) and after due Examination be committed to Bridewell, to be employed in pounding Hemp, or Free-Stone, or in other hard Labour for the Space of Two Weeks at least, to be fed with Bread and Water only, (except in case of Sickness) to have no Bed to lie on, and to be whipped twice every Week, besides those occasional Punishments, which their Misbehaviour, or Non-Performance of the Task set them may require. After this Fortnight is expired, they are to be taken out, and dismissed with Two Pounds of Bread, and Half a Pound of Cheese; and a severe Menace issued, that if ever they are caught again within the Limits of the District, they shall be imprisoned, and punished twice as long.—And so on *toties quoties*.

N. B. The Bridewell for each Sex being to be built at the farther End of each Gallery towards the Kitchen Garden (see the Plan) is to have no Communication either by Door or Window, or

any Crevise with the rest of the Paupers : Much less are the Criminals, there confined, to see or converse with the People in the Streets, or those that are passing along. The Intent of putting Persons into such a Place is, 1st, To punish them for their Faults; and, 2dly, To strike a Terror into others. But both these Ends are defeated by permitting (as in the present English Jails and Bridewells) their Acquaintance, their Comrades, and Partners in Iniquity to visit and converse with them through the Grates. The Shame is lost by this Means, and the Disgrace in every Respect abated : Nay, the more frequent the Sight of Chastisements, or even of Executions, the less Terror will it strike into the Spectators, when too much familiarized to the Object : And consequently the less good Effect will it have upon them. Wherefore the only Passages to each of the Bridewells ought to be by Doors out of the Master and Mistress's Garden ; which Doors are not to have any Grates or Peep-Holes left open : Nor is any Person whatever to be permitted to see, or speak with one of these confined Criminals, but by Leave obtained in writing from the President, or One of the Vice-Presidents, or One of the Guardians of the Week ;—and that only in the Presence of the Master or Mistress, or of some proper Person deputed by them. And when these Criminals are to be punished, their Whippings shall be within the narrow Strip of Ground taken out of the Great Court, whereby the Paupers may hear their Cries, but not see them. The Imagination in this Case will paint both the Punishment, and the Place much more dreadful than the Sight, especially the frequent Sight of them, would find them to be.

VII. ALL the Paupers in the House should be reduced to Three Classes, viz. 1st. The Old, Impotent, and Decrepit who are either past, or have lost their Labour ;—2d, The very young, who are not arrived at it ;—And 3d, Those who are able to labour in one Degree or other, and therefore only want either the Means, or the Inclination to be employed. In regard to the Two first Classes, they should be treated with the utmost Tendernefs, should wear the same Uniform as to Colour, but without the Poor-Badge, for Reasons that will appear presently, should lie on Flock Beds, and be shewn some Degree of Indulgence

gence in most Articles:---With respect to the Third Class, their Usage should be different according to their different Merits, or Demerits; and the Master of the Work-House should keep his Book with separate Columns according to the following Distinctions:

1st. THOSE who get at any Work or Manufacture they are employed about, *under* Two-pence *per* Day at an Average of the Week or Month,---are to be fed with the coarsest Bread that can be made, to have no Table-Cloth, or Table to eat their Victuals on, no Bedsteads, and only Straw and Blankets to lie on, and their Drink to be only Water. They are likewise to be subject to the Ignominy of wearing Two Badges, One on each Arm P. I. *viz.* Poor and Idle.

2d, THOSE who get Two-pence *per* Day at an Average, but under Four-pence, are to have the general Family Bread to eat, a Table, but no Table-Cloth to eat on, are likewise to be permitted to have Bedsteads with Straw Palliases to lie on, and to wear only One Badge of Ignominy, *viz.* P. Poor; but they shall not be allowed better Drink than Water.

3d, SUCH who get Four-pence *per* Day at an Average, but under Six-pence, shall have a Table and Table-Cloth to eat on, and good one-way Beer for Drink; they shall lie on Flock-Beds, and wear the general Uniform or Livery of the House, but without any Badge whatever; and be treated exactly on the same Footing of Tendernefs and Regard with the Two first Classes mentioned before, *viz.* the Old, the Impotent, and the Young.

4th, THOSE who get Six-pence *per* Day at an Average, and upwards, shall, besides all the Emoluments mentioned in the preceding Article, be allowed One Half of their Gains to their own private Use. And when this Reserve of One Half hath amounted up to the Sum of Twenty Shillings, this industrious Person shall be paid his Dividend, and be dismissed the Poor-House, if he pleases, with all his Wearing-Apparel, and a Cer-

tificate from the Court-Guardian, specifying this Instance of this Industry ; which Certificate shall entitle him, for ever after, to work at any Mechanic Trade, and in any Place he shall think proper ; notwithstanding the 5th of Queen *Elizabeth*, or any other restraining Statute, Privilege, or Custom whatever.

THOSE who will not work at all, as likewise all other Offenders shall be sent to Bridewell. But, *note*, This Kind of Punishment ought to be used very sparingly, and only in such Cases where other Means have proved ineffectual. And none of the Paupers ought to be sent thither without a solemn Examination before the Court, if the Nature of the Case will admit of such a Delay.

MOREOVER, as to the inferior Punishments, such as no Beds to lie on, coarse Bread, and only Water to drink, double or single Badges of Reproach, &c. it is to be taken for granted, That the Court-Guardian will properly separate on this Occasion those who are not able to labour---from those who are not willing. The Feeble, the Sickly, Maimed, or Infirm, and the mere Learner cannot do much Work, though ever so willing ; therefore it would be very wrong to class them with the Robust, Idle, and Profligate, the sturdy Beggar and obstinate Vagabond, or the Skilful, but Lazy.

AND whereas the Employment of both Sexes in the great Kitchen-Garden, in manuring the Field, and moving the Hurdles, in making the Hay, or in raising, pulling, or watering the Flax and Hemp, might sometimes interfere with their Hours of Labour at their Manufactures, [though for the most part this might be so managed, as to make the Alteration of the Species of Work seem a Pleasure, not a Toil, and be the Recreation of their vacant Hours, yet, as it might interfere sometimes for whole Days together] then it would be right in such Cases to make the same Allowances for their Labour in this Respect, as they usually get in the other. By which Means the daily Accounts of Earnings might be carried on without Confusion, and
the

the Change from one Species of Work to another make no Alteration in the Books.

VIII. THE Regulations being thus established for the well governing of the Manufacturers, in whatever Species of Work they are to be employed, it will be necessary to add a few Data concerning that Sort of Labour, which is fittest to be introduced into a Working-House for the Poor :

1. THEREFORE, the Employment should be such as will be most compatible with, and qualify the rising Generation for common Services, and common Manufactures, and the Occupations of Gardening, Farming, the Dairy, and all Country Business.

2. THE Materials to work upon should not be costly ; so that the Loss, in Case some of them are spoiled or damaged by Learners or Beginners, might not be great : For the same Reason they should be such as are the least liable to the Frauds and Impositions of Engrossers and Monopolists ; and might be easily obtained in every Part of the Kingdom, and at all Times of the Year.

N. B. Though Part of these Observations have been touched upon before, yet their Importance require that they should be mentioned again.

3. THE Goods to be wrought up by the Poor should be such as do not depend upon the Mode or Fashion of the Times, but are as much in Request at one Season, and in one Place as another ; and consequently are more settled, and subject to less Fluctuations in their Price or Profit.

4. THE Trade or Mystery should be such as is the easiest learned, and will also admit of a ready and sudden Transition from it to other Business, without much Inconvenience to the Person employed.

5. *Lastly,*

5. *Lastly*, THE principal Manufactures should be such as will employ Women and Children, as well as Men; also the Blind, the Maimed, and Lame in some Branches or other of the Business. For no Person should be permitted to remain in a State of absolute Idleness, if any Part could be found out, in which he might be usefully employed, without unreasonable Fatigue or immoderate Labour.

Now from these Premises it must appear, That all the following Species of Employment, whatever more of the like Kind may be added, are very proper to be introduced into a working Poor-House, *viz.*

1. THE Cultivation of the great Kitchen-Garden, milking of the Cows, manuring of the Land, and sowing of Hemp and Flax:—These indeed, as was observed before, may be considered as the first Rudiments of Farming, and Country Business.

2. THE Pulling, Watering, Ripling, Heckling, Pounding, and otherwise preparing of the Hemp and Flax.

N. B. *Part of this Work is particularly adapted for the Bridewells; and the rest is not improper to be added to any other Occupation, which either the adult Poor, or the rising Generation among them may be employed in at other Times.*

3. THE various Branches of such coarse and common Manufactures as are most easily learned, and for which there is a constant Demand, *viz.* The spinning and weaving of coarse Linen-Cloths in Imitation of coarse Dowlasses, Hessens, and Osnabrigs; also the making of Cheese-Cloths;—The spinning of coarse Wool, weaving of coarse Flannels, Linsey-Woolseys, Blanketings, and Rugs; also the knitting of coarse Woollen-Yarn Stockings, Gloves, and Caps; and the making of Thrumbs and Mops.—Add to these the spinning of Hemp for Bags or Sacking; and likewise for sail-Cloth;—moreover the spinning of Hemp and Tow, the *long Way* by Women in the Work-Shops over the Piazzas, for the Chain of Sail-Cloth;

Cloth; and, if there should be any Weavers sufficiently strong for that Business, the weaving of the said Sail-Cloth, and of Sackings, and coarse Tickings:—Lastly, The spinning, and twisting of Twine, and small Cordage under the Piazzas, where the Blind and Lame, the Impotent, or Maimed may turn the Wheels, &c.

4. WHEN there happens to be a Scarcity of Hands in any District during the Hay, or Corn Harvests, the Guardians may let out the able Poor for Hire; provided that the Poor themselves shall reap a Benefit from their Wages similar to the Reserves proposed before in other Cases. And then it may be presumed that they will be glad of this Exchange and Variety of Employment, and will set about their Work with Chearfulness and Alacrity; but not otherwise.

IX. It is proposed, That the Managers, Teachers, or Overseers in the Manufactures should receive no Salaries at all; but in lieu thereof a Bounty of 4*s.* in the Pound for all the Goods made, *when such Goods are vended, and the Money received.* By these Means the Guardians will have a reasonable Security, that the Overseers will both stimulate the Poor to work, and also will take Care, that they are neither paid beyond the usual Price of such sort of Labour, nor are guilty of Frauds and Impositions in what they perform.—Their own Interest will suggest the Necessity of encreasing the *Quantity*;—and as this Quantity must also be, not only vendible, but actual vended before they are to receive their Bounty (which by the by would oblige these Overseers to look out for good and responsible Customers) therefore their Interest will be found at last to be as much concerned in taking Care of the *Quality* and Price, as in multiplying the Quantity of the Goods to be made.—For Reasons of the same Tendency it would be proper, That every Servant belonging to the House, and particularly the Steward or Secretary, and the Matron should *not* receive their whole Income in fixed and stated Salaries, but partly in them, and partly in occasional Premiums and quarterly or half-yearly Gratuities.

The manifold CAUSES of

X. THE Article of Religion and of Christian Education, tho' the last here mentioned, is certainly the first in Dignity and real Importance. And indeed these Points were hitherto deferred only to shew, how the Affairs of regular Industry, and of sound Religion might mutually assist each other —Proposed, therefore, That at the Tolling of a Bell at a certain Hour before Breakfast in the Morning, and Supper at Night, when the Males are all assembled at their Place of Eating,—the Steward, or some other grave Person deputed by the Guardians, shall solemnly, and distinctly read a Set of short Prayers collected from our public Liturgy; and that the Matron, or some other proper Woman shall do the like at the same Time in the Place of Rendezvous for the Females ---After Prayers have been thus reverently performed, all Persons who shall be found absent upon calling over the Roll before going to Meals, and cannot shew a sufficient Cause for their Absence, shall lose their Breakfasts, or Suppers for that Turn, besides other Punishments that may be inflicted. Moreover on *Sundays, Christmas-Days, and Good-Fridays* every Person who is able, shall be obliged to go decently and cleanly dressed to Church, and to behave there in a proper and exemplary Manner. And whereas the Sabbath is a Day that ought to be more immediately dedicated to the Purposes of Religion (and when it is not so applied, it is generally the worst-spent Day in the whole Week); Proposed farther, That for the Space of One Hour on *Sunday* Mornings before Church-Time, and of Two Hours in the Evening after Church, the younger Poor in their respective Places of Rendezvous shall be taught first to read the Psalter, and then to repeat the Church Catechism in a slow, deliberate, and intelligible Manner. And the Teachers or Instructors of such poor Children shall receive no fixed Salary, but, instead thereof, a Gratuity or Reward from the Court of Guardians after the Rate of 5s. for each Child or Youth, when taught to read the Psalter, and to repeat the Catechism to the Satisfaction of the Court.

Lastly it is proposed, for the Benefit of such adult Poor as can read, That the House be furnished with Four large Quarto Bibles,

Bibles, Four Bishop *Gastrel's* Christian Institutes, and Four Bishop *Wilson's* Christianity made easy, or *Indians* instructed, viz. Two of each Sort for the Men, and Two for the Women. And to these may be added a sufficient Number of Dean *Stanhope's* Meditations for the Use of the Sick; and of Bishop *Gibson's* Advice to Persons recovered from Sicknes.

N. B. *These Two last Tracts are to be procured from the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge at about One Half-penny each, taking one with the other; and the Two former at about 1 s. 3 d. each upon an Average.*

XI. In order to preserve the Execution of these Regulations in full Vigour, and to prevent all dirty Jobs as much as may be; and moreover to add those Improvements to the present Plan, which either happy Inventions, or future Experience shall discover, it is necessary to raise, and constantly to keep up a strong Emulation between the Governors of the respective Districts of each County.---Proposed therefore, That every President (or in Case of his Death, and the Vacancy not filled up, proposed that the Vice-President, who is senior in Nomination) shall be obliged to make up the yearly Accounts to the 25th of *March* in every Year; and shall cause a fair Copy thereof to be transmitted to the High-Sheriff of the County at, or before the 1st of *May*, under a Penalty of 50*l.*---And whereas a Specimen of such a yearly Account may not be unacceptable to many Readers, I shall here subjoin such Forms for each Head of Business, as appear to me to come nearest the Mark on this Occasion, viz.

Monies received by ———.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
The Amount of the Taxes on Stock belonging to			
Batchelors, or childless Widowers	-	-	-
— on Lands belonging to ditto	-	-	-
— on Houses belonging to ditto	-	-	-
— on Houses inhabited by ditto	-	-	-
F			— on

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
— on Inns and all Public Houses	-	-	-
— on the lesser Apparatus for Gaming	-	-	-
— on the greater ditto	-	-	-

[And so on for all the rest, not omitting any one Article, even tho' there should be no Monies to be carried out:—In order that a general Abstract may be made of the Whole to be seen at one View. And when all Articles of this Kind are recited, then may be added]

The Amount of Goods sold	-	-	-
Profits from letting out the Poor to Harvest	-	-	-

Total of Receipts belonging to the Year - -

[And if there should be any Arrears received either for Taxes due in former Years, or for Goods sold in former Years, these may be added in Articles by themselves, *viz.*]

Arrears of Taxes due on the Close of last Year's Account	-	-	-
Ditto of Goods sold	-	-	-

Total of all Receipts whatever - -

Monies expended, for

Victuals	-	-	-
Cloathing	-	-	-
Bedding and Furniture	-	-	-
Rent, Taxes, Building, and Repairs	-	-	-
Expence of Drugs, Sicknefs, Casualties, and Burials	-	-	-
Apprehending of Vagrants	-	-	-
Books and Stationary Articles	-	-	-
Salaries and Gratuities to Servants	-	-	-
Implements of Husbandry, and Tools for Manufactures	-	-	-
Premiums to the Supervisors of the Manufactories	-	-	-
First Cost of Raw Materials	-	-	-

Wages

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Wages or Reserves for rewarding the industrious Poor	-	-	-
Pay to occasional Poor not in the House	-	-	-
Total of Monies expended	-	-	-
[And if there should be any Arrears remaining due at the closing of this Account, either for Taxes, or Goods sold, these may be added in separate Articles, <i>viz.</i>]			
Taxes due, but not received this Year	-	-	-
Goods sold, but not paid for	-	-	-
Total Discharge	-	-	-

2d. *The Quantity of Raw Materials charged, and discharged, or accounted for within the Year, [which is another Article of Account] viz.*

	<i>lb.</i>
Flax remaining at the Close of last Year	- - -
Ditto raised by the Poor on their Lands	- - -
Total of Flax charged	- - -

[And so on for Wool, Hemp, or any other Raw Material:—The Account of each of which should be kept separate, and not put together in the Gross.]

Flax used in Manufactures	- - -
Flax remaining at the Close of this Year's Account	-
Total of Flax discharged	- - -

3d. *The Quantity of Manufactures made, and how disposed of, or accounted for* [which is a Third Article of Account]

	Yards.
Ten Pieces of Flannels remaining unfold at the Close of last Year's Account - - - - -	-
Thirty Pieces made this Year - - - - -	-
Total of Flannels made - - - - -	-
Twenty-five Pieces of Flannel sold - - - - -	-
Fifteen Pieces remaining on hand at the Close of this Year's Account - - - - -	-
Total of Flannels disposed of - - - - -	-

And so on for Manufactures made from Hemp, Wool, Cotton, &c. &c. always taking Care to keep each Article separate, and not to mix or lump them together.

4th. *The Number of the People committed to the Care of the Governors, and how accounted for,* [which is the last Article of Account, and will make Two Classes, viz. those within the House, and those without]

Children under Six Years old remaining in the House at the Close of last Year's Account, viz.	Males	Fe-
males	Total	- - -
Adults ditto, Males	Females	Total - -
Children and Infants received this Year, Males		
Females	Total	- - -

Adults

Adults ditto, Males	Females	Total	-	-
Poor Travellers received, Males	Females			
Total	-	-	-	-
People who come to seek for Work received, Males				
Females	Total	-	-	-
Vagrants taken up, Males	Females	Total	-	-

Total Number of Poor committed to the Care
of the Governors - - - -

Industrious Poor Persons who have been reputably dismissed, and have received their Bounties, or Reserves,				
Males	Females	Total	-	-
Poor Travellers dismissed, and sent forwards, Males				
Females	Total	-	-	-
Honest Persons who come to seek for Work dismissed,				
Males	Females	Total	-	-
Vagrants, who have been whipped away, Males	Females			
males	Total	-	-	-
Idle Poor, who have fled from the Confinement, Industry, and Punishment of the House, Males				
Females	Total	-	-	-
Numbers who have died, Males	Females	Total	-	-
tal	-	-	-	-
Poor now remaining in the House, viz.				
Male Children under Six Years old				
Adult Males	-	-	-	
Female Children under Six Years old				
Adult Females	-	-	-	

} Total

Total Number of Poor accounted for by the
Governors - - - -

N. B. *The keeping an exact Account of the Proportions of Males and Females in each Article will give a good Insight into the Morals of the Place, and serve to point out the best Remedies for*

for the lessening, or removing reigning Evils. And in regard to the Distinction of Persons under Six Years of Age from those above, this likewise partly tends to the same Point, and partly helps to discover the Number of Hands capable of being set to work, from those who are not.

As to the List of Paupers without Doors, it may be kept in the following Manner :

Occasional Poor on the Books at the Close of last			
Year, Males	Females	Total	- -
Ditto relieved this Year, Males	Females	Total	- -
tal	-	-	-

Total Charge of occasional Poor - -

Occasional Poor who have been dismissed, or have had			
their Pay withdrawn, Males	Females	Total	- -
tal	-	-	-
Ditto now on the Books, Males	Females	Total	- -

Total of occasional Poor accounted for - -

THE High-Sheriff of the County having received all these Copies from each District at, or before the 1st of *May* in every Year, is forthwith to cause them to be printed, and to bind up all the separate Accounts in One Book or Volume, at the Expence of the County : Then he is to send Twelve Copies to the Steward of each District, *viz.* One to be laid up among the Records of the Court, Two for the Use of the President, and One to each of the Vice-Presidents ; and the remaining Six are to be left for the general Use and Inspection of the other Members of the Court. The Sheriff is also to present One Copy to each Gentleman to whom he sends his Summons to be upon the Grand Jury at the Summer Assizes (not omitting making a Present of a Copy to each of the Judges on the Circuit :) And when the Grand Jury are met, and have gone thro' the other Business

Business of the Sessions, they are then to make a formal Presentation to the Court of the President and Governors of that District, which in their Opinion hath been best conducted, in order to receive the public Thanks of the County for their great Care and Diligence. And when the Judge on the Bench shall present the President with such Thanks, he shall likewise give him a large Silver Medal to be provided by the High-Sheriff (but struck at the Expence of the County) containing the King's Bust, his Titles, and the Date of the Year on one Side,—and on the other, some proper Emblem, or expressive Device, together with this Scriptural Motto, *Worthy of double Honour*. Or, if the President should not be in Court, the Judge may from the Bench charge the High-Sheriff to execute this Commission in his Name, and that of the County.

MOREOVER, if the Grand Jury in examining the respective Accounts of each District, shall find such gross Mismanagement or Misapplication of the Charity in any one as indicates corrupt and dishonest Practices, they shall without Favour or Affection present the Court-Guardians of that District, as, in their Opinion, deserving to be brought to their Trial for a Breach of solemn Trust: And in Consequence thereof, the Prosecution shall be carried on at the Expence of the County in the King's-Bench, *not at the County Assizes*; and the Defendants are to support the suit at their own proper Costs and Charges, *not with the public Money, viz.* The Persons acting, or who ought to have acted in that Affair, and also all those who have signed and passed the Accounts, shall pay;—The President Four Shares,—Each of the Vice-Presidents Two Shares,—And each Guardian who signed the Account One Share.

THUS have I attempted to draw the Out-lines of a general and national Plan for amending the present Set of Poor Laws, or rather for repealing them, and introducing quite another System in their Stead.—If I have succeeded in any Degree, I shall not think my Time, or Labour ill bestowed: And if I shall

shall be so happy as to excite the Genius of Persons more competent than myself to undertake the Execution of such an arduous Affair, this likewise will give me Pleasure. Nay, if I have failed in all Respects, I have still the Comfort to reflect, That I meant the best, and that it can be no Disgrace to have failed in this Case, seeing that many, very many, and very able, and honest Men have often failed before me. But if these Sheets should fall into the Hands of any Persons, who think the present Plan worth their Attention and Improvement, they are desired to return the Papers with their marginal Corrections and Amendments, to their respectful humble Servant, either at the Deanery of *Glocester*, or at his House in *Bristol*.

THE END.



